



# ALADDIN'S LAMP OF THE MIDDLE EAST

# KUWAIT

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*Photographs by DAVID F. CUPP*





KODACHROME BY RALPH MORSE, LIFE

to work in. Moreover, the portable life support system—a sizable backpack—raises a man's center of gravity so high that it takes extra effort just to maintain balance.

For these reasons, activity on the first lunar landing is limited. During a two- to three-hour excursion away from the LM, the men take pictures and collect up to 65 pounds of lunar soil and rocks to bring back to earth in tightly sealed aluminum cases. They hope to set up an instrument to analyze solar wind, a seismometer to detect moonquakes, and an optical reflector. Laser beams from earth, bounced back from this reflector, will measure the moon's distance to within six inches.

Their visit ended, the astronauts explode the two halves of the LM apart and fire the ascent engine. They rendezvous with their orbiting colleague, crawl back into the command module, cast the now-useless LM adrift, and head for home.

The hazards are nearly over, except for re-entry. But the returning explorers face one

more potential peril—lunar contamination. Will they bring back moon organisms? Are lunar materials toxic or lethal to earthlings?

Although most scientists think not, NASA feels that caution is the best policy. So the astronauts go directly from their spacecraft to a transfer van on the recovery ship, then to the Lunar Receiving Laboratory at the Manned Spacecraft Center near Houston for quarantine until 21 days after the men have left the moon.

This new laboratory provides living facilities for the three astronauts and for the staff that will stay with them. It also contains complex arrangements for analyzing and testing the lunar samples (opposite)—even to the point of feeding powdered portions to such diverse life forms as oysters and cucumbers.

Finally, if no contamination shows up, the astronauts will be freed. Then they can say, with Shakespeare's *Hotspur*, "Methinks it were an easy leap to pluck bright honor from the pale-faced moon!"

THE END





A land Croesus would have envied, Kuwait has increased her revenue more than a thousandfold in little more than two decades. Her people have one of the highest per capita incomes in the world—and pay no personal income taxes. In addition to profits from her own wells, the nation receives half the oil revenues from the eastern Neutral Zone, shared with Saudi Arabia.

sleeping quarters, women's quarters, and a courtyard for his animals. An artist on a step-ladder was painting a flamboyant design around a ceiling fan when I arrived. My guide, Sayed Uthman Muzeal al-Saeed, the Civil Governor of Al Jahrah, softly chided Hasan for lavishing \$225 on such a florid luxury.

The new owner ignored the mild reproach. "I want my home to be like the homes of other rich men," he said with a laugh.

Nearly 9,000 low-income houses like Ha-

san's have been provided, and others are being built. The owners can repay the cost in 25 years with as little as \$10 a month.

A week or so afterward, I visited a rather more elaborate home when Ibrahim al-Shatti, the talented young Kuwaiti who is Director of the Office of His Highness the Emir, invited me to tea. He courteously sent his car and driver for me, and we left the hotel just in time to escape the late-afternoon rush. This can be a very competitive situation, since



